

A. Emptying wastebaskets in an office building after school in Lemmon, South Dakota when I was 10 years old. Moved on to a lawn mowing and snow shoveling business when I was 12.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Paul Besselievre for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Besselievre a pleasant retirement and many more years of continued success.

---

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained in Hawaii on official business during which two rollcall votes were taken. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85, Motion to Instruct Conferees on the FY 2002 Budget Resolution, "Yes".

Rollcall No. 86, Motion to Suspend the Rules on HR 428 concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, "Yes".

---

#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 86th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in hopes that we will work to ensure that our country's foreign policy reflects a respect for human rights, and renounces ethnic cleansing and genocide. This Special Order brings forth an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians that lost their lives as a result of this tragic event.

As we arrive at this anniversary once again, the United States should now more than ever promote healing with Turkey and the Armenian community in this nation and abroad. By acknowledging the great tragedy of the Armenian Genocide, we would be doing something today that is right for the wrong endured by Armenians 86 years ago. Although we are conscience of the current crisis in the Middle East and value our relationship with Turkey, it does not diminish the need to recognize what Armenians experienced during the early 20th Century. There are many people across the world who will agree that this is a highly sensitive and serious issue to discuss. But in order for us to correct the errors of the past we must never forget they took place by officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide and standing up against such atrocities.

On this April 24th, 2001, we remember and mourn the loss of all the Armenians killed from 1915 to 1923. But we also look forward to the day when we will see peace and stability real-

ized by not tolerating acts of severe cruelty and injustice. Unfortunately, genocide is not yet a vestige of the past. In more recent years we have witnessed ethnic killings in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo. We must continue on with a commitment to prevent such assaults on humanity from occurring again. There are many Armenians living in California today who form a strong and vibrant part of the State's community. The strength they have displayed in overcoming the suffering is an example to us all.

Surrounded by countries still hostile to them, to this day the Armenian struggle continues. Our nation must work to prevent further aggression and assure Armenians throughout the world that they can live free of threats to their existence and property. Now with an independent Armenian state, the United States has an opportunity to contribute to a true memorial of the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all over the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. For my part, I will vigorously fight to help improve the lives of Armenians in the United States and abroad.

---

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS STARZL

### HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of the truly great Americans of the 20th century, Dr. Thomas Starzl, the renowned "Father of Transplantation."

Dr. Starzl turned 75-years old on March 11th, and his former students, colleagues, patients and others are gathering in Pittsburgh in late April for the dedication of a portrait to hang alongside other University of Pittsburgh medical research luminaries such as Dr. Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine. Dr. Starzl's pioneering work on organ transplantation is no less important to our society.

One considered to be mere science fiction, the reality of organ transplantation is today often taken for granted. For years throughout his early career, Dr. Starzl tirelessly experimented with transplantation in the face of adversity and the skepticism of his colleagues and academics. But he succeeded, and because of his work thousands of lives are saved each year by organ transplant surgery.

It was 20-years ago this year that Dr. Starzl performed the first liver transplant in Pittsburgh. Since that time, more than 11,300 transplants have been performed in what is now the UPMC Health System, making Pittsburgh the busiest transplant center in the world. Even though he retired from surgery in 1991, his work and dedication to the field of transplantation continues and is unmatched.

Now as we proceed into a new century, his work continues. Just because he's now emeritus does not mean he will be idle. He still contributes on a daily basis (just a few years ago he was named the most cited in clinical

medicine) and he will provide leadership and vision to the program that bears his name.

Few in their lifetimes have pioneered and developed a field of medicine and seen it flourish, as has Dr. Starzl. And expect more from him—there are breakthroughs around the corner.

---

#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, every year on April 24 we commemorate the Armenian genocide. Between 1915 and 1923, in what is called the first genocide of this century, more than one million Armenians perished and 500,000 survivors were exiled from their homes in Ottoman Turkey. We mark this unspeakable tragedy each year on that date so that we can examine what occurred and honor the memory of the victims. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the massacre of the Armenians was not the last genocide of the 20th Century. In designing his "final solution to the Jewish problem" Adolf Hitler reflected, "Who today remembers the Armenians?" Decades later, the cries of these victims echoed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, but we must also learn from this event and ultimately act on that knowledge to prevent such indescribable horror from ever occurring again. There are those who deny that there was an Armenian genocide. Mr. Speaker, Yehuda Bauer, historian of Yad Vashem, has said that "to deny a genocide . . . is a denial of truth." We must speak the truth, and that is what we do here in this House today.

As we honor the memory of those who perished, we marvel at the strength of the survivors and the generations which have followed. In the diaspora, the Armenian people have prospered and flourished throughout the world. The creation of the independent state of Armenia in 1991 not only provided the Armenian people with a homeland, but is a beacon of hope for the future. It is our hope, Mr. Speaker, that Armenia will thrive and prosper and continue to fortify its democracy.

It is also our hope, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan will redouble their efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh. I commend our government for bringing the parties together in Florida recently for renewed negotiations, and I hope that this intensified effort will result in an agreement that will ensure lasting peace for all the people of the region.

---

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD CHRISTMAS

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr.